

TIM BURCHETT

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1122 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4202
(202) 225-5435

DISTRICT OFFICES:
800 Market Street, Suite 110
Knoxville, TN 37902
Phone: (865) 523-3772
Fax: (865) 544-0728

331 Court Street
Maryville, TN 37804
Phone: (865) 984-5464
Fax: (865) 984-0521

<https://burchett.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4202

COMMITTEES:

Committee on the Budget

Committee on Foreign Affairs

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment
Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and
International Organizations

Committee on Small Business

SUBCOMMITTEES:

Investigation, Oversight, and Regulations
Innovation and Workforce Development

October 22, 2019

Mr. William P. Barr
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Secretary Barr,

Increasing access to and affordability of healthcare is one of my legislative priorities. On April 5, I wrote a letter to the Subcommittee on Health of the Energy and Commerce Committee urging them to investigate the rise in insulin prices. It has come to my attention that class action suits against pharmaceutical companies for fixing insulin prices are pending in the court system. In addition to handling this issue in civil court, I write to encourage your department to investigate this practice for possible price fixing as a potential criminal matter.

The price of life-saving insulin increased nearly 20 percent each year between 2012 and 2016. That's nearly double the price in just five years. What's worse, the cost of insulin has tripled over the past decade. This goes beyond the basic economic principals of supply and demand.

Millions of Americans rely on this life-saving drug. In fact, my home state of Tennessee has one of the highest rates of people living with diabetes in the country. Increasing insulin prices at the rates we've seen and without regard to the cost of production is unethical and possibly illegal. While I realize the House Committee on Oversight and Reform and other committees are investigating drug pricing, I hope your department will consider doing so as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress